

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 8, as shown below.

The presently pending claim is:

1.-7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Presently amended) A method of reducing waste-water effluent stream produced during the conversion of trona ore into sodium bicarbonate ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

- (1) converting said trona ore into sodium carbonate with the concomitant production of a first waste-water effluent stream containing sodium carbonate using a monohydrate process;
- (2) utilizing said first waste-water effluent stream as a feed stream for a process of converting said sodium carbonate into sodium carbonate decahydrate crystals with the concomitant production of a second waste-water effluent stream;
- (3) feeding said sodium carbonate decahydrate crystals directly to a sodium bicarbonate plant to convert said sodium carbonate decahydrate to sodium bicarbonate with the concomitant production of a third waste-water effluent stream, whereby the total amount of effluent waste-water in said second and third waste-water effluent streams is less than the amount of the effluent waste water in said first waste water effluent stream.